

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 2 and ending at line 10 of page 2 as follows:

It is preferred that the washer is ~~chamfered~~ cambered in the radial direction, wherein the concave side is facing the member and the convex side is facing the screwhead or the nut, respectively. In this manner, the largest possible spring force of the washer is obtained.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 2 and ending at line 16 of page 2 as follows:

Further, it is preferred that the washer is only ~~chamfered~~ cambered in the exterior marginal area in a radial direction, while the inner part is flat. The flat inner support ensures that even with a large loss of pretension, the ribs of the upper side of the washer over the entire length of the support of the screw maintain contact with the screw head. This is not absolutely necessary on the bottom side of the washer, because a sufficient locking action is maintained even if the washer springs in the opening direction, due to the very large friction radius of the bottom side of the washer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 2 and ending at line 19 of page 2 as follows:

Optimal spring characteristics are obtained if the exterior ~~chamfered~~ cambered marginal area only extends over the half of the width of the washer between the inner bore hole and the exterior margin.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 3 and ending at line 19 of page 3 as follows:

FIG. 1 shows a washer for a self-locking fastening device according to an embodiment of the present invention. The shim 10 has the usual shape of a washer with a central bore hole 11 for passing a thread carrier (bolt, screw). Unlike usual washers, the washer according to the present invention is ~~chamfered~~ cambered over the radius from the interior to the exterior and consists of a sufficiently strong resilient material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 3 and ending at line 4 of page 4 as follows:

In FIG. 1, the shim 10 is shown in such a way that the head of a corresponding screw or a corresponding nut is positioned above the shim and the member to be fastened is positioned below the shim. Accordingly, the shim 10 is ~~chamfered~~ cambered convexly in the direction of the head of the screw or the nut and ~~chamfered~~ cambered concavely in the direction of the member. The top side of the shim 10, which faces the screw head or the nut, is directly adjacent the central bore hole provided with a suitable rib profile 12 extending over about two thirds of the width of the shim.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 4 and ending at line 14 of page 4 as follows:

FIG. 2 shows another embodiment of a washer 10' for a self-locking fastening device according to the present invention, wherein the inner region of the shim 10' is flat up to about half of the width of the shim 10', and the ~~chamfer~~ camber of the shim begins thereafter. Again, on the top side of the shim 10' facing the screw head or the nut, respectively, there is provided a suitable rib profile 12' only in the flat area, while on the bottom side of the shim 10' facing the member, the rib profile 14' is merely provided in the exterior ~~chamfered~~ cambered area.